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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,472	04/26/2001	Kunio Yamamoto	13425.10US01	7989

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EXAMINER

TO, BAOQUOC N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/842,472

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Baoquoc N To

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6. 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 5, filed on 04/26/01.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 04/15/02. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al. (US. Patent No. 5,237,508).

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Regarding on claim 1, Furukawa teaches a man-hour management system which manages man-hours for producing a product, comprising:

a walk man-hour conversion table (table) for performing registration management of standardized man-hours for walks which are generated by works (col. 17, lines 39-40);

a work constituent condition table (process condition table) for performing registration management of constituent work CW (element work) for use in managing the man-hours, and conditions for each of the constituent work CW (element work) (col. 12, lines 63-67 and col. 13, lines 1-8);

a standardized man-hour table (shift table 215) (col. 19, lines 32) for performing registration management of standardized man-hour analysis contents (timing of job) (col. 17, lines 58-60) and standardized man-hours for the constituent work CW (element work) or the constituent work CW (element work) conditions which are under the registration management of said work constituent condition table (col. 17, lines 39-44);

a main man-hour management table (table for management free time of each process) (col. 17, lines 39-40) for performing registration management/reorganization management of constituent work CW (element work) items in units of processes, data being assigned to the constituent work CW (element work) items from said walk man-hour conversion table, said work constituent condition table and said standardized man-hour table (a table for storing the history of job) (col. 17, lines 40-39-41), or data being inputted and set to the constituent work CW (element work) items ;

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a process name table (process history table) for performing registration management/reorganization management of names of the processes (col. 18, lines 41-45); and

man-hour output (result) means for outputting man-hour information by being assigned data from said main man-hour management table and said process name table (col. 11, lines 60-62)

Furukawa does not explicitly teach process name table for performing management/reorganization management of names of the process. Furukawa teaches, "a table for string the history of jobs processed through the processes, and a region for managing the latest address of the history table" (col. 17, lines 39-41). This teaches the history stores processes. In addition, Furukawa teaches, "for each process, there are prepared the process history table for managing job names..." (col. 18, lines 55-59). This teaches the history table managing name of the jobs. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the history table for managing the names for each process in order to provide the system an easy way to identify the processes that have been completed.

Regarding on claim 2, Furukawa teaches a change history table (history table) for performing save management of work change contents in units of the processes; wherein said man-hour output means outputs the man-hour information by being assigned data also from said change history table (col. 17, lines 38-51).

Regarding on claim 3, Furukawa teaches a timing graph (graphic display) data table for performing registration management of data of a timing graph, data being assigned to said timing graph data table from said main man-hour management table; wherein said man-hour output means outputs the man-hour information by being assigned data also from said timing graph data table (col. 11, lines 15-23).

Regarding on claim 4, Furukawa teaches a line name table for performing registration management of modes of lines which implement works; wherein said main man-hour management table is assigned data also from said line name table (col. 11, lines 60-63).

Regarding on claim 5, Furukawa teaches a series table for performing registration management of series and types associated with the series; wherein said main man-hour management table is assigned data also from said series table (col. 18, lines 55-60).

Regarding on claim 6, Furukawa teaches a derivation table for performing registration management of derivatives associated with each of the series and the types; wherein said main man-hour management table is assigned data also from said derivation table (col. 11, lines 50-60).

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Regarding on claim 7, Furukawa teaches a database in which the tables are stored (col. 17, lines 43-44); and series data backup means for extracting the data of said tables in series units as have become unnecessary, from said database, and for re-storing said data of said tables extracted in series units, in said database (col. 18, lines 46-50).

Regarding on claim 8, Furukawa teaches the constituent work (element work) has its each movement classified into one of a main action action, a supplemental action and a quasi action, and standardized man-hours analyzed are set for said each movement (col. 20, lines 40-50).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Baoquoc N. To whose telephone number is (703) 305-1949 or via e-mail BaoquocN.To@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached at (703) 305-4393.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231.

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The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follow:

- (703) 746-7238 [After Final Communication]]
- (703) 746-7239 [Official Communication]
- (703) 746-7240 [Non-Official Communication]

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202
Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Baoquoc N. To

June 22, 2003

Shahid Al Alam
SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER